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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/869,247	09/14/2001	Mikko Puuskari	060258-0281450	2288

909 7590 08/27/2008
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EXAMINER

HOM, SHICK C

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2616

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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08/27/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's arguments filed 6/19/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In pages 9-11 of the remarks, applicant argued that while Lager et al. disclose that the support node receives, from a terminal station, GPRS-MS, of the mobile radio communication network via a second support node, a message including an address of a Gateway Support Node; Lager et al. fail to disclose that the support node receives, from a first gateway node, a message including an address of a second Gateway Support Node, because a gateway support node is not the same as a support node is not persuasive. Since a gateway is merely an entrance and exit into a communications network and Lager et al. in Fig. 1 and col. 1 lines 51-54 shows and recite that the GPRS support Node provides connection and interworking with various data networks clearly reads on a gateway as claimed. Further, col. 3 lines 9-36 which recite the support node handle the process of registering new MSs clearly reads on the use of a processor for registering as argued in page 10 of the remarks. Lager et al. in col. 1 line 65 to col. 2 line 2 which recite use of software packages clearly

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anticipate the software routine as argued in page 14 of the remarks and as recited in claim 29.

In response to applicant's arguments in pages 13-14 against the references individually, by referring to Kelly at paragraph [0066] as teaching that a gateway establishes a connection to another gateway; that both gateways are required to establish connections; and that they are not alternatives for each other and that the selection is based on the address of the receiver, and not on an address of another Gateway Support Node is not persuasive because Kelly at paragraph 0066 recite the use of predetermined conditions including routing cost to select one of a plurality of gateways as the selected gateway clearly anticipate the selected gateway as fulfilling the defined condition as claimed; one cannot show nonobviousness by attacking references individually where the rejections are based on combinations of references. See *In re Keller*, 642 F.2d 413, 208 USPQ 871 (CCPA 1981); *In re Merck & Co.*, 800 F.2d 1091, 231 USPQ 375 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

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(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 17 and 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable Lager et al. (6,636,502).

Regarding claims 17 and 25:

Lager et al. disclose a support node comprising a processor configured, in response to an address of a second gateway support node included in a message received from a first gateway node, to activate establishment of a tunnel to be used for transmitting packets with said second gateway support node (col. 4 lines 7-18 recite the support node GGSN establishing a tunnel with the serving GPRS support node, i.e. second gateway support node, including the use of an address containing routing information as claimed).

While Lager et al. fail to disclose that the support node receives, from a first gateway node, a message including an address of a second Gateway Support Node, since a gateway is merely an entrance and exit into a communications network and

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Lager et al. in Fig. 1 and col. 1 lines 51-54 shows and recite that the GPRS support Node provides connection and interworking with various data networks, it reads on a gateway as claimed.

4. Claims 1, 14, 20-21, 24, and 28-29 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over lager et al. (6,636,502) in view of Kelly (2001/0055299).

Regarding claims 1, 14, 20-21, 24, and 28-29:

Lager et al. disclose the method, comprising:

defining at least one condition for a first gateway support node, so that when the condition is fulfilled, a second gateway support node is more suitable for transmitting packets over a connection, the second gateway support node being an alternative to the first gateway support node so that the packets are transmitted from a subscriber either via the first gateway support node or via the second gateway support node, the condition not relating to a receiver of a packet (the abstract recite a switching device for selection of packet data communication network (PDN, PDN2, IN) based upon specific network indication parameter NIP transmitted to a support node SGSN; and col. 1 lines 8-15 recite the selection being of gateway support node GGSN clearly reads on the defined condition

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not being related to a receiver of a packet whereby a second gateway support node is more suitable for transmitting packets over a connection as claimed).

Lager et al. disclose all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of detecting, by the first gateway node that the condition is fulfilled, and instructing, by the first gateway node, to select the second gateway support node by sending a first message indicating the second gateway support node.

Kelly from the same or similar fields of endeavor teach that it is known to provide detecting, by the first gateway node that the condition is fulfilled, and instructing, by the first gateway node, to select the second gateway support node by sending a first message indicating the second gateway support node (paragraphs 0018-0019 recite determining from the received data for establishing communication connection on the circuit-switch communication network and on the packet-switched data network including the gateway coupled to the network and paragraph 0066 recite the initially contacted gateway, i.e. first gateway node, contacting the selected gateway, i.e. second gateway node, for establishing the communication link reads on detecting condition being fulfilled, and the first gateway node

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selecting the second gateway node by sending a message indicating the second gateway support node as claimed).

Thus, it would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use provide the step of detecting, by the first gateway node that the condition is fulfilled, and instructing, by the first gateway node, to select the second gateway support node by sending a first message indicating the second gateway support node as taught by Kelly in the communications network and method of Lager et al.

The step of detecting, by the first gateway node that the condition is fulfilled, and instructing, by the first gateway node, to select the second gateway support node by sending a first message indicating the second gateway support node can be implemented by including the step of detecting fulfilled conditions and instructing the second gateway of Kelly to the method of selecting gateway of Lager et al.

The motivation for using the step of detecting, by the first gateway node that the condition is fulfilled, and instructing, by the first gateway node, to select the second gateway support node by sending a first message indicating the second gateway support node as taught by Kelly in the communication network and method of Lager et al. being that it

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provides more efficiency for the system since the system can more easily re-configure the connects so that calls to either packet-switched network and circuit-switched networks can be established.

5. Claims 18-19 and 26-27 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lager et al. (6,636,502) in view of Davison et al. (2003/0026273).

Regarding claims 18-19 and 26-27:

Lager et al. disclose the support node described in paragraph 3 of this office action. Lager et al. disclose all the subject matter of the claimed invention with the exception of removing an existing tunnel to the first gateway support node in response to activation of tunnel establishment and to successful establishment of the tunnel to the second gateway support node.

Davison et al. from the same or similar fields of endeavor teach that it is known to provide means and step of removing an existing tunnel to the first gateway support node in response to activation of tunnel establishment and to successful establishment of the tunnel to the second gateway support node

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(paragraph 0046 recite initiating a new tunnel, marking the former tunnel for deletion and deleting the former tunnel).

Thus, it would have been obvious to the person having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the means and step of removing an existing tunnel to the first gateway support node in response to activation of tunnel establishment and to successful establishment of the tunnel to the second gateway support node as taught by Davison et al. in the device of Lager et al.

The means and step of removing an existing tunnel to the first gateway support node in response to activation of tunnel establishment and to successful establishment of the tunnel to the second gateway support node can be implemented by connecting the means and step of removing tunnel of Davison et al. in the device of Lager et al.

The motivation for using means for removing an existing tunnel to the first gateway support node in response to activation of tunnel establishment and to successful establishment of the tunnel to the second gateway support node as taught by Davison et al. in the communication device of Lager et al. being that it provides more efficiency for the system since the system can save resources by removing no longer needed connection links.

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Allowable Subject Matter

6. Claims 10-13 are allowed.

7. Claims 2-9, 15-16, and 22-23 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

8. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Bosch et al. disclose route optimization for proxy mobile Internet protocol.

Ioannidis discloses wireless mobility gateway.

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to SHICK C. HOM whose telephone number is (571)272-3173. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pham Chi can be reached on 571-272-3179. The fax phone number for the organization

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where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Chi H Pham/
Supervisory Patent
Examiner, Art Unit 2616
8/25/08

SH